

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 /093 W

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1609

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 88

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: POLICE FEDERATION BLAMES BBC FOR DEATH OF CONSTABLE

REF: (A) BELFAST 73 (B) 1976 BELFAST 74

1. PROVISIONAL IRA GUNMEN AMBUSHED, SHOT AND KILLED AN EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD CONSTABLE OF THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) IN ATTACK ON MOBILE PATROL IN COUNTY FERMANAGH MARCH 13. CONSTABLE WAS HUNDREDTH POLICE VICTIM AND YOUNGEST TO DIE IN TROUBLES. STATEMENT CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY BY PROVISIONALS ADDED "THE RUC HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE A TORTURE INSTRUMENT OF THE BRITISH WAR MACHINE" AND WARNED THAT ATTACKS ON POLICE IN COUNTY FERMANAGH WOULD BE STEPPED UP. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICE FEDERATION, ALAN WRIGHT SAID THAT HE HAD INFORMATION THAT IRA RECRUITMENT WAS UP FOLLOWING SCREENING OF "TONIGHT" PROGRAM (REFTEL A) AND THAT THE RUC HAD UNDERGONE "TRIAL BY TELEVISION AND THE SENTENCE WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE IRA, A COWARDLY BULLET IN THE BACK." SECRETARY OF STATE MASON HAS AGAIN DENIED INTENT TO INTRODUCE MEDIA CENSORSHIP.

2. MR. WRIGHT WILL SEE MR. MASON THIS WEEK ABOUT RELATED

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MATTER - THE RUC OPPOSITION TO ASSUMING LEADING ANTI-TERRORIST ROLE. MR. WRIGHT HAS SAID PUBLICLY RUC HAS NEITHER EQUIPMENT NOR EXPERIENCE TO TAKE OVER ARMY ROLE IN COUNTERING TERRORISM. THIS IS ISSUE THAT PROBABLY CAUSED EARLY RETIREMENT OF PREVIOUS CHIEF CONSTABLE (REFTEL B).

3. PROVISIONAL IRA PLANTED FOUR BOMBS IN SO-CALLED SECURITY

AREA DOWN-TOWN BELFAST MARCH 14. WARNINGS WERE GIVEN BUT WERE EITHER INACCURATE OR MISLEADING. BOMBS WERE ALL DISCOVERED BY SHOPPERS HOWEVER AND AREAS WERE CLEARED BEFORE EXPLOSIONS. SEVERAL PEOPLE TREATED FOR SHOCK BUT THERE WERE NO SERIOUS INJURIES. A HOTEL IN NORTH BELFAST DEMOLISHED BY BOMB ALSO ATTRIBUTED TO PROVISIONALS. A CAR BOMB CONTAINING ABOUT FIFTY POUNDS EXPLOSIVE EXPLODED AT CRUMLIN ROAD COURTHOUSE WAS BELIEVED DELIVERED BY ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE.

4. AN ENGLISH PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT WAS ASSASSINATED ON WAY TO AIRPORT AFTER SPENDING DAY AT STRATHEARN AUDIO IN NEW INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WEST BELFAST. VICTIM MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED BY MISTAKE IN ON-GOING "WAR" AGAINST BUSINESSMEN SINCE HE PASSENGER IN VEHICLE CUSTOMARILY USED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE STRATHEARN. PROVISIONAL DISDAIN OF PUBLIC OPINION EVIDENT THIS CASE. STRATHEARN IS WHOLLY GOVERNMENT-OWNED FACTORY ESTABLISHED SPECIFICALLY ON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE CREATED BY COMMUNITY GROUP (CANON MURPHY - CONATY) TO ABSORB SOME UNEMPLOYMENT IN DISTRESSED CATHOLIC AREAS INCLUDING THE FALLS. DRIVER OF VEHICLE WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. HE RESIDENT OF AREA AND FATHER OF FIVE. SPICER

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